

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES
Alumni Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 26, 2014
Bluemont Hall, Room 021

Members Present: Sue Astley, Lindsay Firebaugh Bock, Jenn Bonds-Raacke, Kelly Burke, Susan Burns, William Conaway, Joel DiGirolamo, Frank Ferraro, Mike Dougherty, Janet Biggs Gee, Andy Karafa, Desirae McKenzie Moreno, John Raacke, DeKeta Schuckman, Kenneth Sewell, Jeanne Tomiser, Mike Troutman, and April West.

Others Present: Jerry Frieman, Don Saucier, Mike Young (via the Internet), Emily Mahoney, Sheila Walker, and various faculty.

Call to order. The meeting was called to order by Alumni Advisory Council Chair Susan Burns. Susan followed with some introductory remarks welcoming everyone.

Introduction of Advisory Council members. Susan asked each continuing member of the Advisory Council to introduce themselves.

Introduction of new faculty member. Jessica Williamson, Instructor (Social/Personality) introduced herself and made a brief presentation about her academic background, research interests, and the classes she is teaching.

It was announced that Heather Bailey gave birth to a son the previous night. A picture was passed around the room

Presentation on our undergraduate program. Don Saucier distributed a handout and provided updates of various aspects of our undergraduate program.

- 1. Concentration in Clinical Psychology.** The name of the Psychological Technician Option changed to Concentration in Clinical Psychology to fit what our students were using the program for. Everything else is the same. Course work entails Abnormal Psychology, Psychology of Measurement, a course titled Clinical Psychology, a separate Laboratory in Clinical Psychology, and electives that relate to interdisciplinary aspects that relate to health. Finally, there is a Field Placement to apply what was learned in class and in the lab. Typically, it is a three-semester sequence. Students who complete the option receive a certificate and recognition at our reception before commencement.
- 2. Undergraduate Research.** This has always been a strength in our department. Lately we have been doing a better job marketing. The URL for a 2-minute video on YouTube that can be accessed at <http://www.k-state.edu/psych/undergraduate/creditforresearch.html> was shown.

Don described various mentoring program for undergraduate students: University Honors Program, Developing Scholars Program (for students in under-represented groups; 4 of our students currently in program), McNair Scholarship Program (2 of our students currently in program), SUROP (Summer Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program; these students

come here from elsewhere to work with our faculty and then go back to their institution; we use this to recruit students from under-represented groups), and by granting academic credit for engaging in research (100-150 students per year). In the spring we have an Undergraduate Research Convocation where students present their research to the entire department. Students also present their work at regional and national conferences, and some of this work is published.

We have a lot of University, College, and Departmental resources to fuel these efforts. These include the Doreen Shanteau Undergraduate Research Fellowships (sustained from a fund created by Dr. Shanteau; funds 3 - 5 \$500 fellowships per year), Undergraduate Travel Awards, College of Arts and Sciences Research Awards (\$1,000 awards) and Travel Awards. The Office of Undergraduate Research Creative Inquiry Research and Travel Awards started this year. Forty percent of our undergraduate students go to graduate school.

3. **K-State First Program.** This program is a university program for first year students. The program includes First Year Seminars (Dr. Kiefer is teaching a seminar version of General Psychology) and a CAT (Connecting Across Topics) Community class where three courses are connected during a semester. This semester Dr. Saucier is involved with The Psychology of Prejudice (combining students from General Psychology and Introduction to Sociology), and Dr. Young is involved with Predicting the Future (General Psychology and Introduction to Statistics).
4. **Identifying Course Clusters within our Undergraduate Curriculum.** Our Undergraduate Curriculum Committee is putting together lists of recommended course clusters to provide structure and guidance to UG students with specific interests and/or goals who want to go into particular fields. The committee welcomes suggestions for career areas that they should focus on for course clusters.

Discussion Items. These topic were presented to the Alumni Advisory Council for discussion:

1. **Examining the Major (and Exploring a Minor) in Psychology**

Current Major Requirements (33 credits):

Psych 110 or 115, Psych 200 (Junior Seminar), Psych 350 (Experimental Methods), Stat 325 (in the Department of Statistics)

Two of the following: Psych 460 (Cognitive), Psych 470 (Psychobiology), Psych 475 (Learning), Psych 480 (Sensation and Perception)

One of the following: Psych 605 (Advanced Social), Psych 620 (Personality)

An additional 12 psychology elective credits

Satisfying the University General Education and GPA requirements

Should we offer a minor? A potential minor would likely be 18 credits, but what would that look like? The purpose would be to acquaint more students with psychology.

Sue Astley noted that their minor is very prescriptive, and they do not require Experimental Methods in their minor because of resource limitations. Andy Karafa noted that the minor is very open at his institution. Don said the minor the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee is currently considering is General Psychology, Experimental Methods lecture, and 12 elective credits in Psychological Sciences.

The biggest hurdles are whether we have to resources to teach more students and how to deal with Experimental Methods in a minor. Splitting the Methods course into a lecture class and a laboratory class might be one way to include Methods lecture in a minor.

There was a general consensus from the comments made to support a minor.

2. Proposed Revision of the Structure of the Experimental Methods (PSYCH 350) Course

Current Format of PSYCH 350: One-semester course with both lecture and lab components (5 total credits)

Proposed Format: Two-semester course sequence, first semester would be lecture (3 credits) followed in a subsequent semester with a lab (2 credits).

Don noted that there are pluses and minuses for breaking the course into two parts. Those are being considered.

Research Presentation by Mike Dougherty. We moved to BH 101 to hear Mike's presentation titled "Improving cognitive functioning through targeted brain training: Does it work?"

Panel discussion and Meet and Greet. Following Mike's presentation, we divided into two groups. One group conducted a panel discussion moderated by Don Saucier titled "Career Options with an Undergraduate Degree in Psychological Sciences—Learning from Alumni Experiences" (Panelists were Lindsey Bock, William Conaway, Janet Gee, Sandi McCoy Kramos, Desirae McKenzie Moreno, Kenneth Sewell, and April West). The other group consisting of Sue Astley, Jenn Bonds-Raacke, Kelly Burke, Susan Burns, Joel DiGirolamo, Frank Ferraro, Mike Dougherty, Andy Karafa, John Raacke, Jeanne Tomiser, and Mike Troutman met informally with graduate students.

Lunch. The group was joined for lunch by faculty and undergraduate and graduate student leaders.

Department Head's Report. Mike Young joined us via the Internet. A detailed outline of his report was included with the agenda and is attached to these minutes (See attachment).

Approval of Minutes of 2013 Alumni Advisory Council meeting. The minutes from the October 4, 2013 meeting were approved as distributed.

Presentation by Emily Mahoney from the Foundation. Emily is our new Foundation Development Officer. This is her seventh week at the Foundation. She is part of a College of Arts and Sciences team that includes Sheila Walker, David Spafford, and Eric Holderness.

The goal of the Foundation is to advance K-State by linking charitable giving to campus priorities.

She reviewed fund-raising for the University and our Department.

A question was raised about how department can help with fund raising. It was suggested that people are more willing to give when they know specifically how the money will be used instead of asking for donations to our Excellence Fund. The department should make known its specific needs and convey how donations to our GTA Supplement Fund and Undergraduate Awards Fund are being used to benefit our students. The most effective fund raising involves personal contact. Another suggestion is to let alumni know that students will be at a convention in their area and arrange a way for them to meet. Another is to increase awareness of what our funds and scholarships do.

Sheila and Emily noted in response to a question about endowed funds, that your gift will go to the principle unless you specify that you want it spent immediately.

Election of chair-elect 2015-2016. Lindsay Firebaugh Bock was elected by unanimous ballot for the position of chair-elect.

Recognition of members whose terms are expiring. We recognized the following members of the Advisory Council who have served two consecutive terms and are required by our by-laws to leave the Council: Dr. Susan Burns, Dr. Paul Detrick, Dr. Michael Dougherty, Dr. Paul Muchinsky, Dr. Margaret Stockdale, Dr. Nozomu Sonda, Dr. Canan Sumer, Dr. Nebi Sumer, and Dr. Jinkook Tak.

Discussion of possible new members. A number of suggestions for people to invite to join our Alumni Advisory Council were made. Jerry will follow up to invite them so that we can achieve a balance of members in terms of degrees earned here and in terms of graduate areas.

Suggestions for fall 2015 meeting.

Home game vs non-football weekend? It did not seem to matter to those in attendance; however, it was noted that home game weekends are more expensive for hotels. We poll the membership in the spring and try to settle quickly on a weekend at the end of September or in early October.

The following suggestions were made for the next agenda:

Discussion of what students can do with their degrees. What skills are businesses and industries looking for that we can provide our students?

Use individual rooms for the graduate student meet and greet.

Get feedback from students as to what we could do differently.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Laboratory tours. After the meeting adjourned, we divided into groups and rotated through the behavioral neuroscience and cognitive labs in the department and then ended with a group meetings with the social/personality and industrial/organizational students.

The Alumni Advisory Council was joined by faculty and spouses and student leaders for dinner in the Purple Pride Conference room in the Alumni Center.